

REMARKS

I. Status of Claims

Claims 1–31 and 34–36 are currently present in the application. Claims 31 and 34–36 are canceled herein. Claims 2, 3, 17, and 18 are amended to insert “the” before “feeding pathway.” Claims 1 and 16 are amended to recite “at least one” indicator pathway and “at least one” feeding pathway. Claims 4 and 19 are amended to replace “between” with “connecting” for clarity. No new matter is added herein. Applicants respectfully request entry of those amendments, and allowance of claims 1–30.

II. Claim Rejections Based on 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

The Office rejects claims 31 and 36 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 3,260,462 to Smaczny. Office Action at 2. The Office rejects claim 34 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over *Smaczny* in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,222,940 to Wilk. *Id.* at 4. The Office also rejects claim 34 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over *Smaczny* in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,741,523 to Bommarito et al. *Id.* Without necessarily agreeing with the Office, Applicants have canceled claims 31 and 34–36, obviating the Office’s rejection. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the pending rejections based on 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

III. Conclusion

The Office has indicated that claims 1–3, 6, 7, 9–11, 16–18, 21, 22, and 24–26 are directed toward allowable subject matter. Additionally, Applicants understand that withdrawn claims 4, 5, 8, 12–15, 19, 20, 23, and 27–30 will be rejoined and allowed,

based on the informal telephone call with Examiner Schell. Thus, Applicants respectfully request entry of this Amendment After Final and allowance of claims 1–30.

If the Examiner believes that a telephone conversation might advance prosecution of this application, the Examiner is cordially invited to call Applicants' undersigned attorney at (404) 653-6553.

Applicants respectfully submits that the Office Action contains a number of assertions concerning the related art and the claims. Regardless of whether those assertions are addressed specifically herein, Applicants respectfully decline to automatically subscribe to them.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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By: 

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